

**First Baptist Church**  
**Smiths Falls - February 18, 2018**

*Scripture:* Luke 10:25-37

25 ¶ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your servants give to you our most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all your creation. We thank you, Lord, for your creation, preservation and for all the blessings of this life. Above all, we pause now to thank you for your incredible gift of love in the redemption of the world by our risen Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. Turn our hearts toward you in order that we may be able to thank you fully and to show our praise and to serve you as is your will.

Lord we have sinned and fallen short of your glory. We realise that we have done or failed to do the things which we would, and these wrongs we lift to you, thankful that your atoning death on the cross will take our sincere prayers of confession and clean us as white as new-fallen snow.

Thanks - Church, gifts, family, health, friendship, love, love of Jesus, word, Petition - guide and guide thoughts and actions, work of this church - finances, leadership, desire, continue to be witness, Be present as we continue to worship. "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, Which Art In Heaven,

Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

*Message: "THE INJURED CHRIST"*

Introduction:

- What is the hardest journey you have ever done? What is its toughest trip you ever taken? Was the hardest destination you've ever worked to achieve?
- I've never had as tough a walk as the people in the Good Samaritan story, but I'm reminded of a very tough journey that four of us took last year as we went to Haiti to assist at the orphanage.
- The Port-Au-Prince airport was chaotic, but the roads in Haiti were truly fascinating. Cars, motorcycles, trucks, pedestrians, and just about every animal were everywhere watching our progress on the 2 hour drive. Immediately, you are caught in a huge mess of congestion at a traffic circle just metres from the airport terminal. The rule is: the bigger the vehicle the greater the right-of-way. Unless you are on a motorcycle. In which case you just keep on squeezing. Within a few kilometres we were outside of Port-au-Prince on an open road, but within a few minutes we drove past where the worse to of the 2010 earthquake wracked its devastation. What a humbling sight to see the hills in rubble. For the most part, the roads were paved and relatively smooth, but every now and then there was some ruts, or crushed

gravel areas until we got to St. Marc. Suddenly the roads became quite narrow as we started heading up the mountain. This is when our Canadian concept of roads became stretched. Leaving a plume of dust behind us as we worked steadily uphill on the path before us, we came to areas which were wide enough to meet other vehicles, including buses and motorcycles that had anywhere from 3 to 7 people on it, but on occasion was cut down to a narrow, single lane. There are times when we had to come to almost a stop as we came upon a washed out portion on the road. This was the first of many journeys that we would do for the week that were in Haiti, and we learned a lot about the joys and perils of life's journey.

- What sort of journey are you on? How is your journey going?
- Jesus told the story of five men that were on a journey. Let's check their story, and then let's seek the Lord's help for our journey in life.

#### Part 1: A Dangerous Road

- That Haiti road was memorable, but nothing like the Jericho road. Luke 10:30 says: "*A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.*" These are words that many of us have heard before in our lives, words of a story in the form of a parable, a story that Jesus has for us to help us understand a greater meaning in life. "*A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho,*" says Jesus. Was he a regular traveller on this road, or not? A lot of people were. Jericho was on the way

between Jerusalem and the Jordan River. Jericho was a priestly town, where workers in the Temple and the Temple priests lived when they weren't working in the Temple in Jerusalem. The road was used by those on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for one of the seven the religious festivals. Or it could be that the be people on this road that were doing some commerce, some business in Jerusalem, as it was the centre of Hebrew life. For these and many other reasons, this was a fairly popular road, which is pretty amazing since it was also a terrible, almost evil road.

- You see, when Jesus said "*A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho,*" His listeners would have shuttered. They would have shuddered not only because of the fatigue that's associated with this very steep, narrow pathway, but because of its danger. Just mentioning this road would've started people on a memory of previous journeys, some of which would not have been very pleasant.
- Maybe that's where you are today. You have just heard of something in your life, and you're aware that it's triggering an unhappy memory of a similar event. Life can be very difficult at times. There can be so many painful distractions that can hurt us a lot. For listeners around Jesus that day, just mentioning this road could have been tough.
- The ancient Jericho Road was anything but straight as it was marked by ravines, sharp turns, caves and craggy limestone hills. And it is

known for its thieves. Robbers would make use of these ravines, sharp turns, caves, and craggy limestone hills to plot their attack. It was so bad that it has earned the name "THE WAY OF BLOOD."

- And it is steep - think of the hill on the west side of Portland but much steeper, and much longer, and way more narrow. The Jericho Road was less than seventeen miles long (27 kilometres, Roughly from here to Carleton Place), but it drops over 3,000 feet (915 metres) to well below sea level.

#### Part 2: The Traveller

- Imagine our first character in the story is standing in Jerusalem knowing that he's got to take this long walk down to Jericho. The thought of the journey must have brought on at least a small tinge of dread.
- How do you proceed when you are in the same situation? When you know that you to have a journey that is going to lead you into potential harm, how do you approach your journey? Maybe this is where you are today – you too are about to take the first steps on a journey that's not to be the most pleasant thing you've ever done in your life. How are you?
- Now we don't know what this Jewish man who left Jerusalem had for belief. We can surmise that because he was a Hebrew therefore he knew and followed God. But there's always a peril in surmising such

a thing. Outward appearances don't always line up with one's heart. Just because one looks as if one is a believer in the Lord, isn't always true, any more than being in a garage makes you a car.

- Did he pray before he left? Did he dread the journey? Or did he walk along the road with great bravado and confidence in his own self?

#### Part 2: Evil on the Road

- What music would you choose if you were filming this next scene: The entrance of the evil robber? What lighting or costumes would you place on the evil thief who is waiting there, on the same road? It is here that the traveller meets the second character in our story. Our second character is a robber and a thief. He represents all that is evil – he represents Satan and his legion of demons that are always out to try to pounce. Do you ever feel that there is evil ready to jump at you at every corner? God spoke to Cain about evil lurking close by us all just before Cain killed his own brother when God said in Genesis 4:7 *"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."*
- Know this: Satan is a defeated foe. Know this: Satan has already lost the war, and is certain to lose every battle. Know this: Satan is powerless before you and around you when you walk with God. Oh, you can be robbed, and hurt, and picked on, and your ears might hurt

as Satan is been described as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8 "*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith.*") I had a dear retired pastor in my Church in Owen Sound who used to say: "On the cross Jesus removed the teeth from that roaring lion, and the only thing that he can do now is give you a good gumming."

- Remember that in the Bible we are told not once but 365 times to not be afraid – that is once for every day of the year. Roaring lions might be out there. Roaring lions might be in your path, either today, or coming soon. Roaring lions might be noisy and terrifying. But know this: our God is greater. Our God is stronger. Our God is mightier. He is the Lion of Judah, Jesus the Christ, and He is more powerful than any force in heaven or earth.
- Back to the road: in a few moments the traveller is stripped, robbed, beaten, left severely wounded and completely defenceless by the evil man. This can happen in all of our lives. One phone call. A knocking your door. A late evening message in your phone. And you too can end up in the middle of the road of your life, feeling beaten, bruised, defenceless.
- A part of the story of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10 is about how God provides. In Hebrew a title for God is “Jehovah Jireh” – it means

"God will Provide" or "God the Provider." Some people “sell” the Christian faith by saying that once you become a believer that all peril and all danger will disappear from your life. This is not the case. The truth is that when you do give your life to Jesus perils will come on your journey, but now you will have the God of the Universe as your guide, sustainer, and friend and constant companion. So when that man was beaten and bruised left on the Jericho Road, he was not alone, any more than you or I are alone. God is God the Provider.

- But he needed help. So God, the Provider, sent three men.

Part 3: Two "Rescuers"

- First is a priest. His job was to present the people's offerings to God. The second man is a Levite – a Temple worker. His job is to get all the sacrifices ready and to corral the people, and to keep the peace in the temple in Jerusalem. And as they are looking at the beaten and bruised body of the man, is clear the only have thoughts of themselves. If this man was beaten, then seasoned robbers might be very close by still. They feared for their own safety, no doubt. And they feared for their own religious purity. Neither one could go near to a dead body without being defiled (Leviticus 21:11), and therefore these two “rescuers” would be unable to do their duties. So on the chance that this man wasn't just hurt but was actually dead they would leave him alone.

- To paraphrase the words of the prophet Amos in the book of Amos chapter 8: This is one crime watching another: "I don't want to get involved...That's what we pay the police for." "I don't want to get hurt." "Find another hero." "It's inconvenient." "It's out of my way." "It will cost me money. One crime watching another.

#### Part 4: The Fifth Man

- When we were in Kitchener there was a family that came quite late to Church one Sunday. They were late because they had stopped on the 401 and assisted a family whose car had broken down. Now, I don't know about you, but when I see a car on the 401, I feel sorry for the people, but I have never stopped – I'm always trying to make the best time, or I don't want be rejected if I offer, or I just don't think about until it's too late. Maybe you can relate to my plight, or maybe you can relate more to the family from Kitchener because they stopped to help. The man told me that he thought this is a greater lesson for his children then perhaps being on time for Church. What do you think of that? Did I tell you the last part of the story? The family from Kitchener stopped, heard of the peril, drove the family back to their home, and lent them their extra car so that they could make it to the family emergency on time. Would you do that?
- That is what the fifth man did - a foreigner who was hated and despised by the very man he was helping. But he did not refuse to get

involved. He did not put himself and his own needs first.

- We all thank God for the fifth man. He did not rationalize. The INJURED traveller had someone who shared his passion, his pain, his suffering. The injured traveller had someone who shared his plight, his peril, his problem. He had someone who was willing to get off his beast, and get to work to do what was right.
- In a word, the injured traveller had someone who had compassion. He had someone willing to put the needs of others above his own: someone who was willing to risk and give all that he had because of compassion. The INJURED traveller had someone who shared in another's passion.

#### Part 5: We are on the Same Road

- In Mark 10:38 Jesus said. "*Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?*" Jesus is telling His disciples that they must be willing to share in His passion -- to share in His pain -- to share in His journey. Know this: we too must be willing to be as Jesus, do as Jesus, and live as Jesus. This is what is what WE HAVE TO DO TO PLEASE GOD
- We have to share in the passion of Christ. We have to be willing (not to do acts for God... But) to become ONE in Christ's journey. To become ONE in Christ's pain. To become ONE in Christ's death.
- We need to be willing to dare TO risk for Christ. To dare TO share

with Christ. To dare to have compassion for Christ. Are you willing to dare TO share in Christ's passion, in His pain, and sorrow, and the pain and sorrow of His beloved children, of His beloved creation...

Are you willing to be involved with the pain and needs of all of Christ's beloved creation?

- Think of the pain Jesus felt as He was humiliated as He died on the cross to save you from your sins (me from mine, us all from all our sins). Think of the shame as He hung there exposed on the cross. Christ was Robbed for us. He did so willingly. He did so to give us life. Can we share in His passion?

Conclusion:

- How is your life journey going? Are you trying it on your own: Is it working? Do you have the Living Christ in your life as Your Guide, as Your Sustainer, as Your Friend? Are you living for yourself, or for the God of the Universe who loves you, cares for you, and wants the best for you? Does your life reflect your love for Jesus, and for His beloved children? Like the Samaritan who took such great care of one of The Lord's own beloved, WE are asked to share in Christ's passion to make His death a part of our journey, a part of us all, as we have His compassion for His beloved in this His world.
- **AND JESUS SAID: GO, and DO THOU LIKEWISE.**